

Militants kill two police officers in Rivers

TWO policemen have been killed by suspected militants in Aluu community in Ikwerre Local Council of Rivers State.

The State Police Command, which condemned the killings, has commenced a manhunt for the perpetrators of what it described as a despicable and unacceptable act.

Eyewitnesses in Aluu told *The Guardian* that the gunmen killed the policemen in two separate attacks in the early hours of yesterday.

The Guardian learnt that some suspected militants in two Mitsubishi buses entered Aluu from the University of Port Harcourt (UNIPORT) axis and were heading towards the Port Harcourt International Airport area, when the first victim accosted them.

The policeman, who was

*From Kelvin Ebiri,
Port Harcourt*

probably on a stop-and-search operation, was said to have flagged down the buses in a bid to ascertain the identities of the occupants.

Shortly after he peeped in through the windows of the vehicles and interacted briefly with the occupants, he decided to abandon the buses and took to his heels. This was followed by sporadic gunshots from the buses. He was killed before he could escape.

An eyewitness, who sought anonymity, informed *The Guardian* that "nobody knew what the policeman was told or saw that prompted him to abandon the buses. Following the sporadic gunshots that ensued, people around took to their heels because no one could really

explain what warranted the killing of the officer."

The gunmen also continued their shooting spree at the police post inside Aluu community. One policeman on duty at the post was killed by the bandits.

The attack on the police post caused pandemonium in the community. Scores of traders at the Aluu Main Market, which is directly opposite the scene of the attack, immediately abandoned their goods and fled.

It was only after the gunmen had left that the people came out and saw the body of the policeman in a pool of his blood.

The militants allegedly took away the service pistols of the two murdered policemen. One of the victims was said to be a sergeant. Policemen have since abandoned the post to avert further attacks.